

**STRIPPED POROUS POLYMER FILMS
AND METHODS OF MAKING SUCH FILMS**

Abstract

Stripped porous polymer film and a method for making such film from substantially heterogeneous porous polymer film are described. The heterogeneous film has surface characteristics 5 that are different from the characteristics of the interior bulk material, and the method comprises mechanically stripping at least a portion of at least one surface layer from the heterogeneous film. The stripped porous polymer film may be 10 incorporated into composite membranes. Such composite membranes are particularly suitable for incorporation into membrane electrode assemblies for use in electrochemical cells, including electrochemical fuel cells.

RECEIVED
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
JULY 1999